

1 1. (Currently Amended) An electronic device for playing a digital
2 content file, comprising:

3 a processor configured to process a digital content file;

4 memory;

5 a watermark detector configured to detect the presence of a watermark
6 signal in the digital content file; and

7 an authentication module configured to access a certificate associated with
8 and separate from the digital content file and determine from the certificate if the
9 processor is authorized to process the digital content file in the event that the
10 watermark detector detects the watermark signal.

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12 2. (Currently Amended) The electronic device as recited in claim 1,
13 wherein the authentication module is further configured to access the certificate in
14 a remote location. further comprising a watermark detector configured to detect the
15 presence of a watermark signal in the digital content file, and wherein the
16 authentication module is further configured to access the certificate associated
17 with the digital content file if the watermark detector detects the watermark signal.

18
19 3. (Original) The electronic device as recited in claim 2, wherein the
20 watermark signal is a 1-bit watermark signal.

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22 4. (Original) The electronic device as recited in claim 1, wherein:
23 the certificate associated with the digital content file indicates that the
24 digital content file may be played but not copied; and
25

1 the authentication module is further configured to limit the processor to
2 playing the digital content file.

3
4 5. (Original) The electronic device as recited in claim 1, wherein:
5 the certificate associated with the digital content file indicates that the
6 digital content file may be not be played after a specified date; and
7 the authentication module is further configured to prevent the processor
8 from playing the digital content file after the specified date.

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10 6. (Original) The electronic device as recited in claim 1, wherein:
11 the certificate associated with the digital content file indicates that the
12 digital content file may be played one time only; and
13 the authentication module is further configured to limit the processor to
14 playing the digital content file only one time.

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16 7. (Original) The electronic device as recited in claim 1, wherein:
17 the certificate associated with the digital content file indicates that the
18 digital content file belongs to the public domain; and
19 the authentication module is further configured to allow the processor to
20 play and copy the digital content file an unlimited number of times.

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22 8. (Original) The electronic device as recited in claim 1, wherein the
23 digital content file is an audio file.
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1 9. (Original) The electronic device as recited in claim 1, wherein the
2 digital content file is a video file.

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4 10. (Original) The electronic device as recited in claim 1, wherein the
5 digital content file is a multimedia file.

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7 11. (Currently Amended) A method for watermarking a digital content
8 file, comprising:

9 embedding a watermark into the digital content file; and

10 associating the digital content file with a certificate that contains copyright
11 information about the digital content file and is not a part of the digital content file;
12 and

13 wherein when the watermark is detected in the digital content file, the
14 associated certificate ~~will be~~ is accessed and the digital content file ~~will be~~ is
15 processed according to the copyright information.

16
17 12. (Original) The method as recited in claim 11, wherein the
18 embedding a watermark into the digital content file further comprises embedding a
19 1-bit watermark into the digital content file.

20
21 13. (Original) The method as recited in claim 11, further comprising
22 delivering the digital content file and the associated certificate over a network.
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1 14. (Original) The method as recited in claim 13 wherein the delivering
2 further comprises electronically transmitting the digital content file and the
3 associated certificate over the network to a network site.

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5 15. (Original) The method as recited in claim 13, wherein:
6 the delivering further comprises electronically transmitting the digital
7 content file and the associated certificate; and
8 the digital content file and the associated certificate are transmitted
9 together.

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11 16. (Original) The method as recited in claim 13, wherein:
12 the digital content file is delivered to a first party; and
13 the associated certificate is delivered to a second party.

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15 17. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:
16 associating a certificate file with a digital content file; and
17 configuring the certificate file with ~~copyright~~ information about the digital
18 content file so that when the digital content file is processed, the digital content file
19 is processed in accordance with the ~~copyright~~ information contained in the
20 certificate file.

1 18. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 17, wherein the
2 configuring the certificate file further comprises configuring the certificate file so
3 that a user having possession of the digital content file may only process the digital
4 content file one time.

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6 19. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 17, wherein the
7 configuring the certificate file further comprises configuring the certificate file so
8 that a user having possession of the digital content file may not copy the digital
9 content file.

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11 20. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 17, wherein the
12 configuring the certificate file further comprises configuring the certificate file to
13 indicate the digital content file belongs to the public domain so that the digital
14 content file may be played or copied an unlimited number of times.

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16 21. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 17, wherein the
17 configuring the certificate file further comprises configuring the certificate file to
18 indicate the digital content file may only be processed during a specified time
19 period.

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21 22. (Original) The method as recited in claim 17, wherein the digital
22 content file is an audio file.
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1 23. (Original) The method as recited in claim 17, wherein the digital
2 content file is a video file.

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4 24. (Original) The method as recited in claim 17, wherein the digital
5 content file is a multimedia file.

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7 25. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:
8 attempting to detect a watermark signal in a digital content file; [[and]]
9 if the watermark signal is detected, ~~locating~~ attempting to locate a
10 certificate associated with the digital content file, the certificate including
11 copyright information about the digital content file; and
12 if the watermark signal is detected and the associated certificate is located,
13 processing the digital content file according to the copyright information included
14 in the certificate.

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16 26. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 25, wherein the
17 certificate is stored in a remote location relative to the digital content file. ~~further~~
18 ~~comprising:~~

19 ~~if the watermark signal is detected and the associated certificate is located,~~
20 ~~processing the digital content file according to the copyright information included~~
21 ~~in the certificate.~~

22
23 27. (Original) The method as recited in claim 25, further comprising:
24 if the watermark signal is detected and the associated certificate is not
25 located, preventing processing of the digital content file.

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2 **28.** (Original) The method as recited in claim 25, further comprising
3 allowing unlimited processing of the digital content file if the watermark signal is
4 not detected.

5
6 **29.** (Original) The method as recited in claim 25, wherein the watermark
7 signal further comprises a 1-bit watermark signal.

8
9 **30.** (Original) A digital content file stored on one or more computer-
10 readable media, comprising a watermark that indicates the existence of a certificate
11 associated with the digital content file, the certificate containing copyright
12 information about the digital content file.

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14 **31.** (Currently Amended) The digital content file as recited in claim 30,
15 wherein the certificate associated with the digital content file is stored remotely
16 from the digital content file. ~~further comprising information identifying the~~
17 ~~certificate associated with the digital content file.~~

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19 **32.** (Original) The digital content file as recited in claim 30, wherein the
20 watermark is a 1-bit watermark.

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22 **33.** (Original) The digital content file as recited in claim 30, further
23 comprising audio content.
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1 34. (Original) The digital content file as recited in claim 30, further
2 comprising video content.

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4 35. (Currently Amended) One or more computer-readable media
5 containing computer-executable instructions that, when executed on a computer,
6 perform the following:

7 attempting to detect a watermark in a digital content file;

8 if the watermark is detected, attempting to locate a certificate that is
9 associated with the digital content file, the certificate containing ~~copyright~~
10 instructions ~~about the~~ regarding digital content file; [[and]]

11 if the certificate is located, processing the digital content file according to
12 the ~~copyright~~ instructions; and

13 wherein the watermark only indicates the existence of the certificate.
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15 36. (Original) The one or more computer-readable media as recited in
16 claim 35 wherein the watermark signal is a 1-bit watermark signal.

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18 37. (Original) The one or more computer-readable media as recited in
19 claim 35, further comprising receiving the digital content file, and wherein the
20 locating a certificate further comprises receiving the certificate contemporaneously
21 with the digital content file.
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1 **38.** (Original) The one or more computer-readable media as recited in
2 claim 35, further comprising receiving the digital content file, and wherein the
3 locating a certificate further comprises receiving the certificate separately from the
4 digital content file.

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6 **39.** (Original) The one or more computer-readable media as recited in
7 claim 35, further comprising receiving the digital content file, and wherein the
8 locating a certificate further comprises locating the certificate on a remote site.

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10 **40.** (Original) The one or more computer-readable media as recited in
11 claim 35, further comprising receiving the digital content file, and wherein the
12 locating a certificate further comprises locating the certificate on an Internet site.

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14 **41.** (Original) The one or more computer-readable media as recited in
15 claim 35, further comprising processing the digital content file if no watermark is
16 detected.

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18 **42.** (Original) The one or more computer-readable media as recited in
19 claim 35, further comprising preventing processing of the digital content if the
20 watermark is detected but no certificate is located.

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22 **43.** (Currently Amended) A propagated data signal, comprising:
23 digital content; and
24 a 1-bit watermark embedded in the digital content; and
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1 wherein the 1-bit watermark indicates the presence of a certificate
2 associated with the digital content, the certificate containing copyright information
3 about the digital content and being stored apart from the digital content.
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5 44. (Currently Amended) The propagated data signal as recited in claim
6 43, further ~~comprises~~ comprising certificate information that identifies a location
7 of the certificate associated with the digital content.
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9 45. (Original) The propagated data signal as recited in claim 43, wherein
10 the digital content is audio content.
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12 46. (Original) The propagated data signal as recited in claim 43, wherein
13 the digital content is video content.
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15 47. (Original) The propagated data signal as recited in claim 43, wherein
16 the digital content is multimedia content.
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